

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO WORK ACT

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the introduction of the Senior Citizen's Right to Work Act of 1995. This bill provides long-awaited relief for America's working seniors. By passing this bill, Congress fulfills the pledge we made just 3 short weeks ago to lift the Social Security earnings limit by the end of 1995.

That pledge was:

Whereas the House of Representatives has overwhelmingly passed legislation to raise the exempt amount under the Social Security earnings limit three times, in 1989, 1992, and 1995;

Whereas such legislation is a key provision of the Contract With America;

Whereas the President in his 1992 campaign document, "Putting People First" pledged to lift the Social Security earnings limit; and

Whereas the Social Security earnings limit is a depression-era relic that unfairly punishes working seniors: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the intent of Congress that legislation will be passed before the end of 1995 to raise the Social Security earnings limit for working seniors aged 65 through 69 in a manner which will ensure the financial integrity of the Social Security Trust Funds and will be consistent with the goal of achieving a balanced budget in seven years.

The unfair earnings limit penalizes low- and middle-income seniors who need to work. The earnings limit takes away \$1 of every \$3 a senior earns over the limit. In 1995, this limit is a mere \$11,280. This bill will lift the level to \$14,000 in 1996 and up to \$30,000 by 2002. If current law remains in effect, the \$14,000 threshold won't be hit until 2002.

Working seniors don't have pension income or stocks and bonds tucked away. They never had the chance to save and invest. And yet, they get hit with a marginal tax rate of 56 percent when they exceed the limit—nearly twice the rate millionaires pay. But those seniors who do live off investment income are not impacted by the earnings limit.

Folks, this is just not right. America's working seniors should not be punished just because they never had money to tuck away and must now keep working to make ends meet. It is time to remove the penalty on seniors who need to keep working.

I want to commend my friend, Representative BUNNING, who has done yeoman's work to bring this issue to the fore. Even though we know working seniors will pay more into our economy and more than offset the costs associated with lifting the earnings limit, the Congressional Budget Office will not allow this "dynamic" method of scoring. Thus, Mr. BUNNING has put together a proposal that meets the CBO's budget rules.

The House Ways and Means Committee will be considering this legislation tomorrow. And soon after, the Congress will consider this bill on the floor.

We promised working seniors that we would provide relief before the end of the year, and we're going to keep that promise. Working seniors across America can trust Congress to deliver relief when they need it most. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall vote No. 810, the vote on the rule to H.R. 2491, the Balanced Budget Act. I would like the record to reflect that I would have voted "no".

THE NATIONAL PARKS AND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEMS FREEDOM ACT OF 1995

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with a number of my distinguished colleagues, including JIM HANSEN, JIM SAXTON, KEN CALVERT, and J.D. HAYWORTH, the National Parks and National Wildlife Refuge Systems Freedom Act of 1995.

The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that our national parks and wildlife refuges are not closed in the future because of a lack of Federal funding to operate them.

During this past weekend, we witnessed the sad spectacle of the Department of the Interior closing our Nation's 369 parks and 504 national wildlife refuge units.

These lands, which comprise about 181 million acres, were acquired through the hard work of millions of American taxpayers, who paid for them with entrance fees, excise taxes, duck stamps, and income tax payments.

It is terribly wrong to close these facilities and to deny the American people the right to enjoy their beauty, splendor, and various recreational opportunities.

In the State of Arizona, Governor Fife Symington offered to operate and keep the Grand Canyon open by using the State National Guard personnel. Regrettably, the Governor's request was denied because the Department of the Interior currently lacks the legal authority to allow the States to manage these lands.

The National Parks and National Wildlife Refuge Systems Freedom Act will require the Secretary of the Interior to accept the services

of State employees to operate any parks or refuge units when the Federal Government is in a period of a budgetary shutdown.

Under the terms of my bill, a State would not be forced to operate any park or refuge within its geographic boundaries, but would simply be given the opportunity to offer their services, like Governor Symington.

Furthermore, the term "government budgetary shutdown" has been narrowly defined to only cover those circumstances when there is a failure to enact a timely appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior and there is a lack of temporary or continuing appropriation funds.

Mr. Speaker, our national parks and wildlife refuge systems must never be closed again in the future. This legislation will ensure that if there is ever another budgetary meltdown, the American people will not be denied the chance to visit the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Yellowstone National Park, or the Washington Monument.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of the National Parks and National Wildlife Refuge Systems Freedom Act of 1995.

THE DAMAGE TO FEDERAL WORKERS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, there have been articles written and statements made suggesting that since furloughed Federal workers are being paid that somehow they came out ahead in this shutdown ordeal.

I find this kind of rhetoric highly offensive and an affront to the hundreds of thousands of hard-working, dedicated Federal workers who were furloughed through no fault of their own.

How do individuals come out ahead after being demoralized with the label of "non-essential?" How do individuals come out ahead after their lives were put on hold because of political posturing? How do individuals come out ahead after they have witnessed actions that could have jeopardized their jobs and their future?

Mr. Speaker, the truth is that they cannot. No Federal worker, and I want to say this again, no Federal worker in my district or anywhere in this country said, "Please, please furlough me." In fact, I know that a number of furloughed Federal workers continued to work at home, realizing the importance of their work and their commitment to this country, even if others had forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we learned a valuable lesson from this experience, and I hope that we begin serious consideration of a long-term plan to prevent this from ever happening again. Then, and only then, can we say America and Federal workers came out ahead.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SECRETARY HAZEL O'LEARY,
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Secretary Hazel O'Leary and the job she has performed at the Department of Energy. Under her leadership, the Department has undergone a major organizational transformation that has already saved money and enhanced Government performance.

One step toward these goals was taken by developing a first-ever strategic plan, which created a framework and shared vision for the Department's missions in national security, energy resources, weapons site cleanup, and science and technology.

A major overhaul was initiated of the Department's contracting practices, which will yield billions of dollars in savings through increased competition and performance-based contract management.

Under Secretary O'Leary's leadership, the first independent post-cold war review of the Department's 10 national laboratories was commissioned and now the Department is aggressively implementing recommendations that will reduce the costs and help sustain their long record of scientific discovery and technological innovation. This action will help to ensure long-term economic growth.

These actions and others are helping Secretary O'Leary and the Department of Energy to meet the goal of reducing the Department's budget by \$14.1 billion over 5 years. This is just the kind of leadership that the Department of Energy, as well as all of Government needs to ensure efficient and productive expenditure of our tax dollars.

MILITARY-CIVILIAN COLA INEQUITY

HON. WES COOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. COOLEY. Mr. Speaker—as a veteran of the Korean war and a member of the Veterans Committee—I rise today to address the issue of COLA inequity between military and civilian retirees. In 1993, Congress voted to delay COLA payments for veterans.

By delaying the inflation index for veterans, President Clinton was able to give more money to other programs. This is wrong. When an employer breaks a contract, penalties are paid. Our Government made a contract with our veterans—and our veterans have fulfilled their part of the contract.

We must pay them for their service. Given the sacrifices that veterans make to preserve our freedoms, it is simply wrong for politicians to raid their pensions. Mr. Speaker, this Congress did not create COLA inequity—but we have a moral duty to fix the problem.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE A. BREWER

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Jesse A. Brewer, a trailblazer who valiantly served his country as a decorated military officer, police officer with the Chicago and Los Angeles Police Departments, and as a member of Los Angeles Police Commission. Commissioner Brewer died on November 19, 1995.

A native of Dallas, TX, Jess Brewer was born on October 21, 1921. He began his undergraduate work at Tuskegee Institute, where he met his wife, the former Odessa Amond, also a student at the university. Brewer was required to temporarily discontinue his education when he was called to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1943 Jess attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA, and was commissioned as a 2d lieutenant upon graduation. He would later complete his undergraduate work at Shaw University. His distinguished military career spanned 33 years of active and reserve duty. During World War II he attained the rank of Army captain. After the war he became a reserve officer, retiring in January 1976 at the rank of colonel. Brewer's decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantry badge and two Campaign Ribbons. In 1977 Jess Brewer earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Brewer began his career as a police officer with the Chicago Police Department in 1947. Brewer left the department in 1952, discouraged by discriminatory hiring and promotion practices. He joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1952 after applying to the LAPD twice. His first application was rejected on a technicality, an event Brewer attributes to racism. Brewer acquired a great deal of experience through his assignments at the LAPD, which included patrol, vice, traffic, homicide, and burglary investigation. He was promoted to sergeant in 1958, but could only act as an undercover investigator at that time because department rules did not permit African-Americans to supervise white. Later, as barriers to supervisory provisions were removed, Brewer held several command assignments at the rank of Commander.

In 1981 he was promoted to deputy chief and served as commanding officer for the area encompassing south-central Los Angeles from 1981 to 1987. As deputy chief, Brewer garnered praise for pioneering law enforcement innovations such as new officer deployments, which placed more officers in minority neighborhoods as the gang crisis intensified. November 19, 1987, he was promoted to the rank of assistant chief by then-Chief Daryl Gates, where he directed the activities of the Office of Administrative Services and was responsible for all support functions of the LAPD. Chief Brewer's accomplishments were recognized throughout the country, as demonstrated by his selection as technical adviser to the Emmy Award-winning television series "Hill Street Blues"—a series widely praised for its realism and technical accuracy. He also was widely regarded as an ideal candidate to succeed Chief Daryl Gates as the LAPD's top

officer. Assistant Chief Brewer retired in 1991 as the highest ranking African-American in the history of the department.

Four decades as a LAPD officer gave Brewer a firsthand look at the problems of the department, whose name over the years had become synonymous with the harsh treatment of Los Angeles residents. It was this intimate knowledge of the LAPD that led to his July 1991 appointment to the Los Angeles Police Commission, where he was praised for bringing stability and credibility to the commission. In August 1991 he was elected vice-president of the commission and a year later was elected President of the Commission. While a commissioner, Brewer served on the Budget, Deployment, and Riot Investigation Subcommittees and chaired the intelligence subcommittee.

Commissioner Brewer's wealth of experience and compassion also prompted the Christopher Commission to request his testimony during that commission's investigation of brutality and racism at the LAPD. Although it was Gates who promoted Brewer to the rank of assistant chief, that fact did not prevent Commissioner Brewer from giving a frank assessment of the problems within the LAPD. In testimony before the Christopher Commission, Brewer revealed the excessive force, rudeness, and disrespect had been "out of control" for years. He ultimately recommended that Chief Gates resign, and strongly pushed for the appointment of Willie L. Williams, Los Angeles' first African-American police chief. Commissioner Brewer left the Los Angeles Police Commission in 1993.

Throughout his career, Brewer served as a board member of several prestigious public and private organizations, including the President Commission on Organized Crime and the National Advisory Committee Task Force on Disorder and Terrorism. He also served as a Governor-appointed member of the board of directors of the California Museum of Science and Industry, and the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission. Commissioner Brewer's many honors include the 1988 NAACP Judge Thomas L. Griffith Legal Award and the Ricky Bell Humanitarian Award. In 1990 he was an honoree at the National Association of the Black Military Officers' dinner and was a lifetime member of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, Los Angeles mourns the loss of a great public servant. His commitment, dedication, and gentlemanly demeanor will be sorely missed by us all. I ask you to join me, Mr. Speaker, in paying tribute to a fine officer, a true gentleman, and a good friend, and in expressing our heartfelt condolences to his wife Odessa, his sons, Jesse, Jonathan, and Kenneth, and their families.

CORPORATE AMERICA BENEFITS FROM AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 20, 1995

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, 1995, the Executive Leadership Council and Foundation held its seventh annual recognition dinner in Washington, DC. The Leadership Council is comprised of African-American executives of Fortune 500 companies. I had the